

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FEAE-00 OES-03 AF-06 IO-11 /117 W
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P R 091230Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3786

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 1122

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, TGEN, FR, BR

SUBJECT: VISIT TO BRAZIL BY FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES

REF: (A) PARIS 2336, (B) 75 BRASILIA A-183

1. SUMMARY. THE SAUVAGNARGUES VISIT TO BRAZIL SEEMED SUCCESSFUL POLITICALLY EVEN THOUGH NO AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED. THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FRANCO-BRAZILIAN "GRANDE COMMISSION" TOOK PLACE DURING THE VISIT. SAUVAGNARGUES AND BRAZILIAN FONMIN SILVEIRA REVIEWED WORLD ISSUES, AND SAID THEY HAD MANY SHARED VIEWS ON THE MID-EAST AND ANGOLA AND ON THE OBJECTIVES OF CIEC. FRENCH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER BARRE, WHO ACCOMPANIED SAUVAGNARGUES, MADE NUMEROUS NEW SUGGESTIONS FOR BILATERAL COMMERCIAL

CCOPERATION. GOB AND FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICIALS WILL NOT PRE-DICT WHETHER ANY OF DISCUSSIONS ON COOPERATION, INCLUDING
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ON NUCLEAR AND SOLAR ENERGY, WILL MATURE PRIOR TO PRESIDENT

GEISEL'S TRIP TO FRANCE, EXPECTED IN LATE APRIL. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE VISIT CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOB'S OBJECTIVES OF EXPANDING COMMERCIAL AND OTHER TIES WITH FRANCE AND OF ENCOURAGING FRENCH RECOGNITION OF BRAZIL'S GROWING IMPORTANCE AND STATUS. FRANCO-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES, ARE ENHANCED BY CERTAIN PARALLELS OF BRAZILIAN AND FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY RELEVANT TO BRAZIL'S PURSUIT OF "GRANDEZA." END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

2. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES, ACCOMPANIED BY FRENCH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER BARRE, MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRAZIL ON JANUARY 28-30, FOLLOWED BY A WEEKEND IN RIO. THEY MET FOR AN HOUR WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL, WHO REAFFIRMED HIS INTENTION TO VISIT FRANCE THIS YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE VISIT. THEY ALSO TALKED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA, AND THE MINISTERS OF FINANCE, AND INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE. BARRE MET SEPARATELY WITH THE MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, AND WITH THE ACTING MINISTERS OF PLANNING AND MINES AND ENERGY. THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS PRESIDED OVER THE FIRST SESSION OF THE "GRANDE COMMISSION" SET UP DURING SILVEIRA'S TRIP TO PARIS LAST FALL (REF B). THE COMMISSION ESTABLISHED THREE WORKING GROUPS: POLITICAL; ECONOMIC; AND CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND TECHNICAL.

3. IN THE COMMUNIQUE, THE MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR SHARED VIEWS OF THE VALUES OF THE WESTERN WORLD, OF THE NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF INTERDEPENDENCE AMONG NATIONS, OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND LDCs, OF THE "CONCENTRATION" OF EFFORTS IN CIEC, OF THE PRINCIPLES WHICH COULD LEAD TO A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, AND OF THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF EVENTS IN AFRICA, WHERE BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE CLOSE TIES. THEY PROMISED TO MAINTAIN FREQUENT CONTACTS AT A HIGH LEVEL ABOUT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS.

4. IN THE ECONOMIC AREA, THE COMMUNIQUE SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE DELEGATIONS TO THE COMMISSION MADE CLEAR THE COMMON WILL TO DEVELOP AND DIVERSIFY BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS, INCLUDING TRADE IN "EQUILIBRIUM" (E.E., WITHOUT GENERATING A ONE-SIDED BILATERAL TRADE DEFICIT).
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AFTER EXAMINING OBSTACLES TO BRAZILIAN AND FRENCH EXPORTS, THE DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT PROSPECTS FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY WOULD FACILITATE EXPANDED ECONOMIC RELATIONS. THE DELEGATES EXPRESSED THE DESIRE FOR MORE FRENCH INVESTMENTS IN BRAZIL, AND SATISFACTION THAT FRENCH COMPANIES HAD AGREED TO BUY MORE BRAZILIAN SOYBEANS AND IRON ORE. THEY ALSO DISCUSSED POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANDED COOPERATION IN STEEL, EXPORT CORRIDORS, PETROCHEMICALS, JOINT VENTURES IN THIRD COUNTRIES,

HYDROELECTRIC PLANTS, MINERALS EXPLORATION AND TECHNICAL TRAINING, SOLAR ENERGY, SPACE, RAILROADS, SEMI-ELECTRONIC SWITCHING EQUIPMENT, AND EVENTUALLY IN PETROLEUM RESEARCH. IN ADDITION, THE FRENCH INQUIRED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN BRAZIL'S SATELLITE PROGRAM AND RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN SATELLITE PROGRAMS. COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER QUANDT, THE PRESS REPORTED, SAID BRAZIL WAS NOT ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EUROPEAN SATELLITE PROGRAMS, AND HE SAID A FINAL DECISION ON BRAZIL'S SATELLITE PROGRAM HAD NOT YET BEEN MADE. IN A MEETING WITH FINANCE MINISTER SIMONSEN, ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, SAUVAGNARGUES UNDERLINED THE COMMON WILL OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER. AT THE SAME MEETING, BARRE EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE IN BRAZIL'S CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

5. IN THE CULTURAL SPHERE, BOTH DELEGATIONS EXAMINED WAYS TO PROMOTE THE TEACHING OF EACH OTHER'S LANGUAGE, TO IMPROVE THE BRAZILIAN IMAGE IN FRENCH TEXTBOOKS, TO DEVELOP FRENCH COURSES FOR BRAZILIAN EDUCATIONAL TV, AND TO UNDERTAKE OTHER COOPERATION, INCLUDING IN THE TECHNICAL AREA. THE FRENCH EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT CERTAIN BRAZILIAN STEPS IN THESE AREAS.

6. SAUVAGNARGUES RECEIVED A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF FAVORABLE PRESS COVERAGE. JOURNALISTS WERE MOST INTERESTED IN THE POSSIBILITIES FOR FRENCH-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION. SAUVAGNARGUES DEVOTED LITTLE ATTENTION TO THIS TOPIC EXCEPT TO SAY THAT (QUOTING JORNAL DO BRASIL), "FRANCE IS OPEN TO VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH BRAZIL, EITHER THROUGH PROJECTS OF COMPLEMENTARITY (COMMENT: COMPLEMENTARY TO BRAZIL'S EXISTING NUCLEAR PROGRAM) OR EVEN THROUGH THE SUPPLY

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OF TECHNOLOGY FOR THE CONTROL OF THE FULL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE, FROM PROSPECTING THROUGH ENRICHMENT." SAUVAGNARGUES NOTED THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE CONTINUING THEIR NEGOTIATIONS ON A NUCLEAR AGREEMENT TO REPLACE THE ONE THAT EXPIRED IN 1974. HE SAID THERE WERE NO POINTS OF CONFLICT WITH REGARD TO THE SUBJECT AND A NEW AGREEMENT. AT A LATER NEWS CONFERENCE, SAUVAGNARGUES WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THERE DID NOT EXIST COMPETITION BETWEEN WEST GERMANY AND FRANCE IN BRAZIL.

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3787

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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7. SAUVAGNARGUES SAID, ACCORDING TO A NEWS REPORT, THAT THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION SIGNIFIED THE POLITICAL WILL TO EFFECT COOPERATION WHOSE BEST RESULTS PERHAPS CAN BE APPRECIATED DURING PRESIDENT GEISEL'S VISIT TO FRANCE. HE DENIED THAT HIS TRIP WAS EMPTY OF CONTENT BECAUSE NO AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED; NEW THEMES FOR COOPERATION AND THE INAUGURATION OF THE GREAT COMMISSION, HE SAID, GAVE AN INVALUABLE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE TRIP. SAUVAGNARGUES, ACCORDING TO ANOTHER NEWS REPORT, SAID BRAZIL IS A GREAT COUNTRY AND IT WOULD BE A GREAT POWER BY THE END OF THE CENTURY. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, SAUVAGNARGUES SAID FRANCE DEFENDS A STRICTLY AFRICAN SOLUTION TO THE ANGOLAN WAR, AND HE "DID NOT EXCLUDE" EVENTUAL DEPLO- MATIC REGOGNITION OF THE MOEVEMET THAT CONTROLS THE LARGEST PART OF ANGOLA'S TERRITORY. HE REMARKED THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT DEPLORED THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE CONFLICET, AND HE SAID HE OBSERVED A CONVERGENCE OF POSITIONS ON THIS
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POINT IN HIS CONVERSATIONS IN BRASILIA.
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8. COMMENT: FONMIN OFFICIAL SNA D FRENCH EMBOFF, IN CONVERSATIONS WITH US EMBOFFS, CALLED THE VISIT VERY SUCCESSFUL POLITICALLY EVEN THOUGH IT WAS "VAGUE AND GENERAL" (SAID THE FRENCH EMBOFF) AND RESULTED IN NO NEW COOPERATION AGREEMENTS. BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS WERE PLEASED WITH THE NUMEROUS AND MOSTLY NEW FRENCH SUGGESTIONS FOR COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY BARRE'S SPECIFIC IDEAS. THEY SAID, ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT ALL DISCUSSIONS, EVEN ON SOLAR AND NUCLEAR ENERGY COOPERATION, ARE VERY PRELIMINARY AND INFORMAL. NO ONE WOULD PREDICT THAT ANY OF THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD MATURE PRIOR TO GEISEL'S VISIT TO FRANCE. THE FONMIN'S NUCLEAR AFFAIRS ACTION OFFICER (FIRST SECRETARY MARCELO DIDIER OF THE ECONOMIC DEPT.) SAID HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT SAUVAGNARGUES' IDEAS FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION, AND THAT INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE RENEWAL OF THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT HAD NOT YET BEGUN. OEVERALL, LARGE SCALE FRANCE-BRAZILIAN COOPERATION OUTSIDE THE CULTURAL AREA(MANY OF BRAZIL'S ELITE ARE STILL ORIENTED TOWARD FRENCH CULTURE AND LANGUAGE) SEEMS TO BE INCIPIENT AT BEST. FRANCO-BRAZILIAN COMMERCIAL TIES COULD BE IMPROVED. ACCORDING TO CENTRAL BANK STATISTICS, FRANCE STANDS IN SEVENTH PLACE AS A FOREIGN INVESTOR IN BRAZIL AND IN NINTH PLACE AS A TRADING PARTER--1974 TRADE WAS \$608 MILLIN, ONE-FOURTH OF BRAZIL'S TRADE WITH WEST GERMANY. THE BRAZILIANS SEE FRANCE AS A MAJOR, NOT-FULLY-EXPLOITED MARKET AND AS A POTENTIALLY MORE IMPORTANT SOURCE OF INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, OBJECTIVES TO WHICH NEW COOPERATION PROGRAMS COULD CONTRIBUTE.

9. NO ONE YET DESCRIBES FRANCO-BRAZILIAN TIES AS CONSTITUTING AN "EMERGING SEPECIAL RELATIONSHIP," A PHRASE SOME JOURNALISTS HAVE SUED TO DESCRIBE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WEST GERMANY AND BRAZIL. IT SEEMS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT BRAZIL WOULD WELCOME A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN COMMERCIAL TIES WITH FRANCE AS WELL AS GREATER FRENCH RECOGNITION OF BRAZIL'S GROWING IMPORTANCE AND STATUS. BOTH OF THESE ARE AMJOR BRAZILIAN FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES WITH FRANCE THAT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN FURTHERED BY THE SAUVAGNARGUES-
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BARRE VISIT. AND HEAVY PUBLICITY ABOUT THE PARIS-RIO CONCORDE LINK CERTAINLY HAS HGIHTENED BRAZILINA INTEREST IN FRANCE.

10. FRANCO-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS MIGHT BE ENHANCED BY CERTAIN PARALLELS BETWEEN THE GEISEL GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY (NO AUTOMATIC ALIGNMENTS AND PRAGMATISM

ABOVE IDEOLOGY) AND PAST FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY. AS THE FRENCH EMBOFF DESCRIBED IT, BRAZIL'S PURSUIT OF "GRANDEZA" RESEMBLES FRANCE'S VIEW OF "GRANDEUR" ABOUT 10-15 YEARS AGO. IN OUR VIEW, RESEMBLANCES COULD INCLUDE BRAZIL'S EXPRESSED DISTRUST OF SUPER-POWER MOTIVES, ITS QUEST FOR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT NPT CONSTRAINTS, ITS DRIVE TO DIVERSIFY ECONOMIC CONTACTS, LESSENING DEPENDENCE ON THE US, ITS ECONOMICALLY-MOTIVATED MEDEAST POLICY, AND ITS DESIRE FOR A LOWER PROFILE ON EAST-WEST ISSUES WHERE BRAZIL'S INTERESTS ARE NOT DIRECTLY AFFECTED (E.G., THE KOREAN QUESTION). ALTHOUGH SUCH PARALLELS TO FRENCH POLICY ARE NOT EXCLUSIVE WITH BRAZIL, AND THERE ARE DIFFERENCES AS WELL, WE BELIEVE THAT THE PARALLELS COULD BETTER FRANCO-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS IN SEVERAL WAYS. FIRST, THE PARALLELS MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO CONVERGENCES OF VIEWS ON CERTAIN ISSUES CITED IN THE COMMUNIQUE. SECOND, SIMILAR APPROACHES ON CERTAIN ISSUES COULD BUILD CONFIDENCE FOR FUTURE BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION ON WORLD ISSUES. SUCH COOPERATION MIGHT COME SLOWLY AND ONLY IN LIMITED AREAS, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF BRAZIL'S

PRESENT POLICY OF GENERAL ADHERENCE TO THIRD WORLD POSITIONS. AND THIRD, IF FRENCH POLICY HAS ANY ROLE-MODEL EFFECT ON BRAZILIAN POLICY, IT COULD ENCOURAGE THE BRAZILIAN VIEW THAT ENHANCED STATUS AND INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION CAN BE COMBINED PROFITABLY AS LONG AS BRAZIL KEEPS A FOOT IN AT LEAST ONE CAMP (DC'S LDC'S OR ITS NEIGHBORS) ON ANY GIVEN MAJOR ISSUE.
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